

**Minutes
For
Marianas Monument Advisory Council Conference Call**

March 5 / 6, 2013

1:00 p.m. HST / 9:00 a.m ChST

Call in number: 877-937-9768

Pass Code: 8818550#

1. Introductions, confirm participants on the call:

- A. Chairman Sablan conducted roll call and welcomed the MTMAC.
- B. Call to order took place at 09:10 (ChST)

Participants confirmed:

MTMAC: Chairman Ben Sablan (CNMI), Arnold Palacios (CNMI),
LCDR Morgan Roper (USCG), Roy Tsutsui (DoD)
Absent: - Dr Joyner (CNMI,)

Agencies:

USFWS: Susan White, Laura Beauregard, John "Jay" Calhoun
NMFS: Heidi Hirsh, Midori Akamine, Lisa Croft

2. Agenda approval

- The draft Agenda forwarded earlier to the MTMAC was approved with the following changes:
 - Other information or new issues: Discuss confirmation of CNMI initiative to add Guam representatives to the MTMAC
 - See Enclosure (1): Draft agenda

3. Approval of December 05 and September 05, 2012 minutes

- December 05 and Sep 05, 2012 Meeting Minutes were discussed and approved without changes.
 - ACTION (1): FWS agreed to add the two minutes (Sep and Dec) to the official MTMAC files.

4. Report out on Meeting Action Items;

- Changes from Governor Fitial's resignation and CNMI membership
 - After much discussion on new Governor Inos potential personnel changes within CNMI government, it was recommended that FWS provide to Mr. Palacios the FWS and NMFS addresses for appropriate points of contacts. Governor Inos would send these agency contacts notices of changes to CNMI members' employment status that would make them ineligible for the MTMAC. - ACTION (2): FWS agreed to email to Mr. Palacios information on who the Governor should write to informing of any employment changes of the CNMI MTMAC membership.
- Marine Protected Area (MPA) workshop held in Saipan Jan 29th

- Very successful with regional, public and student participation despite short time frame for planning
 - Apologies were provided and accepted for the unintended lack of an invitation to the FWS, as had been requested on previous MTMAC calls.
 - CNMI plans to complete a MPA workshop summary report by June 2013.
 - ACTION (3): Mr. Palacios offered to provide a copy of the draft MPA workshop summary report to the agencies and MTMAC for review when it is completed.
- Governor Fitial's letter sent on Jan 10, 2013 to Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior
 - FWS confirmed receipt at the Dept. of the Interior level but was not received at the FWS level until mid-February since it was first directed to the National Park Service.
 - NMFS confirmed receipt at the Dept. of Commerce level but not received at the NMFS level until mid-February since it was first directed to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.
 - Both agencies are in process of preparing draft responses for their Secretaries.
 - Mr. Sablan asked if insight would be provided to the MTMAC on any personal opinions or draft responses. After much discussion, the issue of personal opinions was discarded.. There was no action item made.
 - The CNMI MTMAC members reiterated the importance of issues raised by Governor Fitial's letter and elaborated especially on CNMI's interest in the value of the co-management and transfer of 3-mile territorial sea, as well as the importance of having discussions and agreements on the record to inform future representatives..
 - The CNMI MTMAC members did not anticipate that Governor Inos would make any significant changes to affect the MTMAC, including the CNMI interest in co-management.
 - Mr. Palacios was planning to brief Governor Inos later in the day and welcomed any briefing materials or information from the MTMAC to assist.
 - ACTION (4): MTMAC members and supporting agencies will email to Mr. Palacios any information they wish to help with Mr. Palacio's briefing to Governor Inos.
 - ACTION (5): CNMI MTMAC members would inform the MTMAC and agencies if there are changes in their CNMI employment.
- Visitor center/multi-purpose facility
 - Navy Hill Lighthouse proposed site structural assessment: CNMI reported the congressionally funded assessment is being finalized, however this engineering report is showing that the site is not looking good as a site. Perhaps it might be better to tear down the existing structure and construct from the ground up the new Monument Visitor Center there or find an alternate location. Discussion ensued on what steps to take for considering a visitor center for the MTMNM.
 - FWS reported that a line item insert was made into their operational needs database for a visitor center, but there is no specific background for what that visitor center might constitute.
 - NOAA reported that there is no current commitment in NOAA specifically regarding a visitor center.
 - After much discussion that touched on the uncertainty of items such as purpose and uses, scope, location, and management of a visitor center, NOAA suggested a parallel effort outside of the monument planning process to consider a facility. FWS stated they do not support a duplication of process outside of the monument management planning to examine options for the same type of facility.
 - The MTMAC recommended that a unified working group or task force be established to discuss these factors for a visitor center.

- Discussion also included the need for public to participate in evaluating the purpose and scope of the center.

- ACTION (6): FWS is recommended to establish a unified working group with FWS, NMFS, CNMI and identify others in the community as appropriate, to develop recommendations for planning a visitor center with the results reported to the MTMAC. FWS will also include a proposed timeline for the establishment of the working group.

5. Adjournment of meeting

- There being no time left to discuss the remaining agenda items, the MTMAC recommended that the next business teleconference meeting be held after the WESTPAC meeting which is being held later this month.

- ACTION (7): NMFS will coordinate with the MTMAC to schedule the next business teleconference meeting.

- ACTION (8): FWS will provide draft minutes of this meeting to Mr. Tsutsui to review and send out to the MTMAC.

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:40am (CHST).

Enclosure (1): Draft agenda

Prepared by: FWS and Roy Tsutsui (MTMAC Secretary)